

# Preface

This volume contains all the papers presented at SSPR 2000 and SPR 2000, held at the University of Alicante, Spain, August 30 – September 1, 2000.

This was the second time these two technical workshops were held back-to-back. SSPR 2000 was the eighth meeting of the international workshop on Structural and Syntactic Pattern Recognition and SPR 2000 was the third international workshop on Statistical Techniques in Pattern Recognition.

These workshops have been traditionally sponsored by two of the most representative technical committees of the International Association of Pattern Recognition (IAPR): the TC2 and TC1, respectively.

A total of 130 papers was received for consideration from almost 40 different countries. Both the submission and the reviewing process were carried out separately for each workshop even though papers were distributed among reviewers in both program committees according to their particular previously expressed interests.

As a result of this “joint” reviewing process, papers were distributed into three categories: SSPR, SPR, and SSSPR. We designed the technical program of the joint workshop according to the accepted papers and five oral sessions were allocated for each of the two first categories and two oral sessions (eight papers) for the third one.

The two poster sessions (one per workshop) were held at the same time and were allocated a large amount of space and time to encourage discussion and interaction among researchers. A total of 52 papers was selected for oral presentation and 35 papers were presented in the two poster sessions. In addition, we invited five distinguished speakers, Jim Bezdek from the University of West Florida, USA, Marco Gori from the Università di Siena, Italy, Colin de la Higuera from the Université Jean Monnet, Saint Étienne, France, Sarunas Raudys from the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius, Lithuania, and Josef Kittler from the University of Surrey, UK.

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We would like to express our gratitude to all our sponsors and, specially, to the members of the two program committees who faced a really tough task which has lead to a selection of papers of a very high quality.

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particular Alfred Hofmann, who supported the publication of these proceedings in their LNCS series.

Finally, we would like to mention two colleagues who passed away during the preparation of these workshops: Pierre Devijver, after whom the last of the 5 plenary papers in the workshop is named, and Edzard Gelsema who died whilst holding the office of President of the IAPR.

September 2000

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